

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

MEMBERS

- Antioch
- Arlington Heights
- Bannockburn
- Barrington
- Bartlett
- Buffalo Grove
- Deer Park
- Deerfield
- Des Plaines
- Elk Grove Village
- Evanston
- Fox Lake
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Grayslake
- Hanover Park
- Highland Park
- Hoffman Estates
- Kenilworth
- Lake Bluff
- Lake Forest
- Lake Zurich
- Libertyville
- Lincolnshire
- Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove
- Mount Prospect
- Niles
- Northbrook
- Northfield
- Northfield Township
- Palatine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Rolling Meadows
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- Streamwood
- Vernon Hills
- West Dundee
- Wheeling
- Wilmette
- Winnetka

- President*
- Rodney Craig
- Hanover Park

- Vice-President*
- Donna Johnson
- Libertyville

- Secretary*
- Eric Smith
- Buffalo Grove

- Treasurer*
- John Lockerby
- Skokie

- Executive Director*
- Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board

Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Office and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Craig led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

- Arlington Heights, Mayor Tom Hayes
- Barrington, Manager Scott Anderson
- Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
- Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
- Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan
- Evanston, Mayor Daniel Biss
- Glencoe, Manager Phil Kiraly
- Hanover Park, Mayor Rod Craig
- Highland Park, Manager Ghida Neukirch
- Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
- Lake Zurich, Manager Ray Keller
- Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
- Lincolnwood, Mayor Jesal Patel
- Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
- Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
- Niles, Trustee John Jekot
- Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
- Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
- Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
- Park Ridge, Mayor Marty Maloney
- Prospect Heights, Administrator Joe Wade
- Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
- Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
- Skokie, Manager John Lockerby
- Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
- Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis

Others in Attendance:

- Patricia Eaves Heard, Nicor
- Albert Stefan, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
- Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director

Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
Ellen Dayan, CPPB, NWMC Purchasing Director
Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 9 meeting was made by Mayor Johnson, The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly unanimously approved.

V. President’s Report – Rodney Craig, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Hanover Park

A. NWMC Holiday Celebration

President Craig said that invitations have been sent and encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Durso provided an update on the RSVPs to date.

B. Election to the IFPIF Board of Trustees

President Craig encouraged every eligible mayor to vote for the municipal candidates of the Illinois Firefighters’ Pension Investment Fund (IFPIF) Board of Trustees. Mr. Fowler noted that completed ballots must be received prior to December 2. Mayor Dailly reviewed the work of the IFPIF and stressed the importance of voting for the mayoral candidates.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Eric Smith, President, Village of Buffalo Grove, Co-Chair and Greg Lungmus, President, Village of Northfield, Co-Chair

1. Veto Session

Mr. Bury provided an update of the veto session schedule and issues expected to be considered. He said Representative Kifowit and Senator Martwick introduced similar legislation in each chamber on Tuesday proposing to make significant changes to Tier 2 pension systems, including for police, fire and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund participants. He reviewed the details of the bills and the prospects for moving them through veto and lame duck sessions. He said staff will send an Action Alert to the membership tomorrow detailing the key components of the bill and asking members to contact legislators to oppose them.

Mayor Dailly stressed the importance of contacting legislators and registering opposition as this issue will continue to be pushed by the public safety unions. President Smith and Mr. Bury noted that the unions are pushing misinformation about how the Tier 2 pensions were negotiated in 2010. Mr. Bury provided details of the negotiations, which started in the spring, continued over the summer and concluded in the fall veto session. Mr. Fowler noted the convenience of the unions pushing this line of argument as very few current legislators (14%) were in office in 2010 and don’t have the history of the issue.

To that point, Mayor Dailly noted the need to continue educating legislators, including the Safe Harbor issue, which was addressed in the 2019 public safety pension fund consolidation legislation. Mr. Bury cited legal opinions received by the IML and a June Commission on Governmental Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) report saying that there are no Safe Harbor issues to be addressed for police and fire pension systems. He said those issues will be noted in the Action Alert and further asked members to provide data on the fiscal impact of the bills to share with staff and legislators.

President Smith said that it would be up to the municipalities to educate residents on the impact of these bills so that they can relay concerns to legislators. To that point, President Craig asked Mr. Fowler to provide an update on the activities of the Pension Fairness Coalition. Mr. Fowler said that the Coalition Partners met on October 31 to formalize messaging and communication infrastructure for the upcoming legislative session. He said this legislation will now provide the base to refine the messaging for residents and legislators and noted the work of Policy Analyst Chris Staron to review the 660+ page bill late into the previous evening and provide the analysis that will be used to inform the Action Alert and the Coalition’s messaging.

2. LGDF Strategy

Mr. Fowler reported that the Legislative Committee met with IML CEO Brad Cole on October 23 to discuss the legislative strategy behind the statewide approach in support of an increase to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and other state shared revenues. He said the committee generally supported the approach to have IML negotiate the issue but still has questions about feedback loop to Mayors and the Councils of Government.

3. Pension Fairness Coalition Update

The report was included in the veto session item above.

4. 2025 Legislative Program

Mr. Bury reported that the Legislative Committee is undertaking a modified approach to development of the 2025 Legislative Program. He said the priority issues will be pensions, state shared revenues and mass transit. He said a survey will be sent to the membership to help prioritize the issues, submit additional information as well as include issues that members are pursuing. He said the deadline to complete the survey is November 15 and the committee will review the results to draft the final program.

B. Finance Committee – John Lockerby, Manager, Village of Skokie, Chair

1. 2023-2024 Federal 990 Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax

Mr. Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the 990 Form - Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax and the AG990-IL form.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Hayes. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

2. August 2024 Budget Report and Purchase Journal

Mr. Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Report and Purchase Journal from August 2024.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

**C. Transportation Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair
Public Transit Reform Update**

Mayor Johnson provided an update on legislation proposing to consolidate the Regional Transportation Authority and the service boards. She reviewed two key issues, including land use planning and voting authority. President Craig said that, absent any legislative movement early in the spring session, the service boards would have to turn their attention to creating “doomsday” budgets to reflect the loss of funding for transit.

Mr. Fowler reported on the numerous Senate Transportation Committee hearings and other meetings, noting that Mayors Johnson and Van Dusen served on a panel at the RTA Transit Summit. He said that staff was working with the bill proponents through former State Representative Elaine Nekritz to schedule a meeting with NWMC members to discuss their intent for the spring session and areas of concern identified by the Conference. President Craig requested that staff forward RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard’s recent letter to the editor to the membership.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler gave an update on the Strategic Planning initiative. He said that based on discussions with leadership, the finance committee and executive board, staff has paused the initiative and will seek additional proposals. He thanked President Craig, Mayor Johnson and Mr. Lockerby for sending contacts and requested that members forward any suggested strategic planners to staff.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Biss expressed concern with the potential impact of the incoming administration on several issues, including protection of federal revenue streams, housing, infrastructure and sustainability initiatives. He asked if there was interest in like-minded communities to collaborate on protection of committed project funding and mutual priorities. Mayor Goczkowski expressed support. Other members expressed the need to take a more conciliatory approach to the incoming administration. Mayor Hoefert and others suggested meeting with members of the congressional delegation to discuss the issues and seeking support from other councils of government.

IX. Next Meeting

President Craig reported that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Hoefert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.